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6 July 1954

A SAMPLING OF SWEDISH POSITIONS ON ISSUES CONCERNING VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL BODIES

1. Regarding Participation in the Council of Europe.

a. In 1949 the Swedish delegation opposed the transformation of the Council of Europe into a vehicle for European federation.

b. In 1951-1952 Foreign Minister Osten Unden threatened that Sweden would withdraw from the Council of Europe if, as proposed, it should become coordinated with the European Defense Community and with the Coal and Steel Community.

c. In May 1952, on the Eden plan to associate the European Army with the Council of Europe, Foreign Minister Unden stated that Sweden cannot accept the British proposal. If the British proposal should be accepted by the Council, Sweden should then be prepared to leave it.

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d. In February 1953, the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Sweden warned that Sweden would have to reconsider its membership in the Council of Europe if the trend toward active consideration of defense measures continued in the Council.

2. Regarding Certain NATO Activities.

a. The Swedish Government objected to the naval phase of the fall 1952 NATO manoeuvers ("Main Brace") extending into the Baltic Sea.

b. In 1953 the Swedish government turned down a request by the U.S. Navy for a courtesy naval visit to Swedish Baltic ports.

c. In 1953 Sweden unofficially expressed sympathy with those Norwegian elements opposing the stationing of non-Norwegian NATO personnel on air-bases in Norway.

3. Regarding a UN Survey of Possibilities for Free German Elections.

Analyzing the prolonged exchange of notes between the Soviet Union and the Western Powers in the December 1953 issue of Tiden, official organ of the Swedish Social Democratic Party, Foreign Minister Unden reiterated his earlier stated opposition to

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an on-the-spot UN survey of the possibility of holding free elections throughout Germany. He stated that such a proposal was merely a tactical manoeuver in the struggle for German public opinion.

4. Regarding Membership of the Federal Republic of Germany in the World Meteorological Organization.

Despite earlier statements favoring the admittance of the Federal Republic of Germany to membership in the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the chief of the UN section of the Swedish Foreign Office in June, 1953 stated that the Foreign Office did not propose to reply to the mail ballot it received from the WMO Secretariat regarding the applications made by both the Federal Republic of Germany and the "German Democratic Republic" for membership in that body.

5. Regarding Unification of Germany

In a speech before the Stockholm Publicist's Club in January, 1954, Foreign Minister Unden advocated the unification of Germany even at the expense of delaying German assimilation into the Western defense scheme. He stated, among other things: "...the Soviet program contains much that would be

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valuable from a Swedish viewpoint. Moscow says it is prepared to accept free elections... and the reunification of Germany... but Germany must not enter into a military alliance with the Western Powers. This /point of view/ would appear to be of interest to Sweden as a solution of the German problem."

6. Regarding OEEC

a. Although a member of OEEC, Sweden's trade with Eastern Europe in 1950 remained above pre-war levels.

b. In February 1952, the Swedish government expressed apprehensions lest NATO cause OEEC to waste away.

7. Regarding Chinese Aggression in Korea

In a speech before the Stockholm Publicist's Club in January, 1953, the Swedish Foreign Minister reiterated and defended his government's 1951 voting position in the General Assembly of the United Nations, where it abstained on the issue of the condemnation of the Communist Chinese aggression in Korea.

8. Regarding Proposed Constitutional Changes

In early 1950 the Swedish Parliament and its Constitutional Committee reacted unfavorably to a

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proposed constitutional change allowing future abridgement of Swedish sovereignty.

It was stated that the Swedish constitution already allows participation in international organizations and that the change was consequently unnecessary.

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JUN 24 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, WE

ATTENTION : [redacted] 25X1A9a

SUBJECT : Memorandum Report

Swedish Positions in the UN

REFERENCE : [redacted] 25X1A2g

1. In response to your oral request of 21 June 1954, we are forwarding the attached brief report on Swedish attitudes in the United Nations. As requested we have cited sources of records of UN voting and have listed examples of Swedish positions on significant issues in the UN.

2. Information was obtained from Department of State OIR and OLI files. Officials of CIA/OCD and Department of State DRW/OIR/NER, OLI and UNA also were consulted.

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[redacted]

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DATE: 11/3/78 REVIEWER: 061169

Enclosure: Swedish Positions in the UN

25X1A9a [redacted]

Distribution:
2 - Chief, WE
[redacted] (2)

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22 June 1954

SWEDISH POSITIONS IN THE UN

1. Availability of UN Voting Records

The Swedish Government publishes annually a series of reports on significant events in the United Nations. The series is issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the title Aktstycken Utgivna of Kungliga Utrikesdepartemented: NY Serie I: A: 2. Förenta Nationernas Generalförsamlings ___(Session Number) Ordinäre Möte (Documents issued by the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs: New Series I: A: 2. United Nations General Assembly ___ (Session Number) Ordinary Session).

In addition, the minutes of UN sessions are on file in the Bureau of United Nations Affairs (UNA) of the Department of State. The Brookings Institute of Washington, D.C., currently is engaged in analyzing the voting in the United Nations.

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2. A Sampling of Swedish Positions on Significant Issues in the UN

The following are examples of some votes, abstentions or actions by the Swedish delegation in the UN on issues of direct concern to the US:

a. In April 1951 the Swedish delegation abstained in the UN General Assembly from voting on the questions of declaring Communist China an aggressor and of applying sanctions against Communist China.

b. In May 1951 the Swedish delegation abstained from voting on the resolution to embargo shipments of strategic goods to Communist China.

c. In December 1951 the Swedish delegation proposed that the four occupying powers in Germany make the necessary arrangements for UN-guaranteed free elections (echoing Soviet demands).

d. In March 1953 the Swedish delegation voted against a Czechoslovakian charge in the General Assembly's Political Committee that the US Mutual Security Agency's program of assisting escapees was an act of aggression.

e. In March 1953, on the question of firing security risks from UN posts, the Swedish delegation emphasized that there should be no firing for any matters connected with subversion unless the UN itself

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had thoroughly inquired into the allegations.

f. In April 1953 the Swedish delegation, in the UN Human Rights Commission, voted to unseat the Chinese representatives and to seat the Chinese Communist representatives.

g. In September 1953 the Swedish delegation voted with the USSR for the admission of Communist China to the UN.

h. In September 1953 the Swedish foreign minister and senior representative of the Swedish UN delegation, Östen Unden, in a speech before the General Assembly rejected the idea of any fundamental revision of the UN Charter, especially any change in or any abolition of the veto.

i. In September 1953 the Swedish delegation voted for the resumption of debate on the Korean peace conference and its composition.

j. In October 1953 the Swedish delegation abstained from voting on the question of the liberation of Morocco from French rule within five years.

k. In October 1953 the Swedish delegation reiterated in the Political Committee that the Moroccan issue did not fall outside the competence of the UN.

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1. In January 1954 the Swedish delegation notified the UN secretary general that it had no objection to the General Assembly president's proposal for reconvening the Assembly to handle the Korean issue.

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